

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) [[a]] A portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus comprising:

~~an encoder for generating compressed data using a high efficiency compression method;~~

a memory unit including at least one semiconductor memory ~~for storing~~ configured to store the compressed audio data that was previously compressed via high-efficiency compression processing from said encoder;

a decoder ~~for decoding~~ configured to decode the compressed data when read out from the memory unit, and ~~producing~~ configured to produce a decoded output signal according to a reverse processing of the high-efficiency compression ~~method~~ processing;

a digital/analog converter ~~for converting~~ configured to convert the decoded output signal from said decoder into [[an]] at least one analog signal;

a first headphone driven unit and a second headphone driven unit configured to receive as input at least portions of said at least one analog signal, ~~receiving said analog signal from digital/analog converter and for producing acoustic sounds from there;~~

said first headphone driven unit configured to produce a left audio channel sound and said second headphone driven unit configured to produce a right audio channel sound; and

an input unit including a plurality of ~~user-operated keys~~ user-activated interfaces that respectively trigger different functions, wherein ~~one of~~ the compressed audio data is read out from said memory unit in response to ~~operation of~~ triggering one of said plurality of user-activated interfaces ~~keys~~ of said input unit.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises an analog/digital converter for converting an analog audio signal into a digital audio signal and the digital audio signal outputted from said analog to digital converter is supplied to said an encoder.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a housing unit for housing therein said memory unit, said decoder, and said digital/analog ~~converter~~ converter and having said input unit arranged thereon.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising ~~mounting means, whereby a memory~~ mount that enables said memory unit ~~[[is]]~~ to be removably housed in said housing unit.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising an electrical connector ~~connecting means~~ for electrically connecting configured to electrically connect said headphone unit and said housing unit.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The portable audio signal recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising ~~mounting means, whereby a memory~~ mount such that said memory unit is removable.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A portable audio signal reproducing apparatus, comprising:

a memory unit ~~for storing~~ configured to store a plurality of music data portions and including at least one semiconductor memory having stored therein high-efficiency compression encoded audio data making up said plurality of music data portions, said semiconductor memory having a capacity for storing a predetermined amount of said audio data resulting in at least fifteen minutes of an analog signal;

a reproducing circuit having

a decoder ~~for decoding~~ configured to decode said audio data read out from said memory unit and ~~producing~~ produce a decoded output signal, and

a digital/analog converter ~~for converting~~ configured to convert the decoded output signal from said decoder into said analog signal; and

a plurality of headphone driven units ~~receiving that~~ respectively receive as input at least portions of said analog signal from said digital/analog converter and ~~for producing~~ produce acoustic sounds therefrom; ~~and~~

~~a headband having said headphone units arranged at both ends thereof and housing said reproducing circuit.~~

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The portable audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising an input unit including a plurality of ~~user-operated~~ keys user-activated interfaces that respectively trigger different functions, wherein one of said music data portions is read out from said memory unit in response to operation of one of said ~~keys~~ plurality of user-activated interfaces of said input unit.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a housing unit ~~for housing~~ configured to house therein said

memory unit, said decoder, and said digital/analog ~~converter~~ converter and ~~having~~ have said input unit arranged thereon.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising ~~holding means, whereby~~ a holder that enables said memory unit ~~[[is]]~~ to be removably housed in said housing unit.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising an electrical ~~connecting connector means for that~~ electrically ~~connecting connects~~ said ~~headphone unit~~ plurality of headphone driven units and said housing unit.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising ~~mounting means, whereby~~ a mount that enables said memory unit ~~[[is]]~~ to be removable.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The audio signal reproducing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said apparatus further comprises a handband and a battery housed in said headband, at least two of said plurality of headphone driven units being disposed on said headband.

Claim 16 (New) A portable audio signal reproducing apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a headband having two of said plurality of headphone driven units arranged at both ends thereof.

Claim 17 (New) A portable audio signal reproducing apparatus comprising:

a memory unit including at least one semiconductor memory configured to store the compressed audio data that was previously compressed via high-efficiency compression processing;

a decoder configured to decode the compressed data when read out from the memory unit, and configured to produce a decoded output signal according to a reverse processing of the high-efficiency compression processing;

a digital/analog converter configured to convert the decoded output signal from said decoder into at least one analog signal;

at least first and second headphone driven units each configured to produce at least one of left and right channel audio sounds based on the at least one analog signal; and

an input unit including a plurality of user-activated interfaces that respectively trigger different functions, wherein the compressed audio data is read out from said memory unit in response to triggering of one of said plurality of user-activated interfaces of said input unit.